

Investment in research saves lives and money



facts about:

Alzheimer's Disease

"If you think research is expensive, try disease."

— Mary Lasker 1901–1994

Today:

- 4.5 million Americans currently suffer from Alzheimer's disease.
- Approximately 400,000 new cases of Alzheimer's disease will be diagnosed this year.
- By 2050, more than 14 million Americans will be living with Alzheimer's disease.
- Nearly one in five caregivers of Alzheimer's patients say taking care of their family member or friend has made their health worse.
- Only 9,000 physicians are certified to practice geriatrics. To adequately care for the aging population, the U.S needs 20,000 geriatric specialists now and 36,000 specialists by 2030.

SOURCE: ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION (WWW.ALZ.ORG)
 NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (WWW.NIH.GOV)
 AARP (WWW.AARP.ORG)
 NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR CAREGIVING (WWW.CAREGIVING.ORG)
 ALLIANCE FOR AGING RESEARCH (WWW.AGINGRESEARCH.ORG)

The Cost:

- The annual cost of Alzheimer's disease care in the U.S. is more than \$100 billion.
- Medicare spends \$91 billion a year on care for people with Alzheimer's disease.
- Average Medicare costs for an Alzheimer's patient are \$13,000 a year compared to \$4,500 a year for older Americans without the disease.
- Alzheimer's disease costs American businesses more than \$61 billion annually, including \$36.5 billion in lost productivity of employees who are caregivers.

SOURCE: ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

SAVING LIVES
SAVING MONEY

HOW RESEARCH SAVES LIVES:

- Research shows that Alzheimer's disease attacks brain cells 20 years before symptoms are apparent, indicating the need for prevention and early detection of the disease.
- Currently, 28 new drugs for Alzheimer's disease are in development by private industry. Basic research is needed to fuel the creation of new drugs for prevention and treatment.
- Research has shown that the drug memantine can slow the deterioration of Alzheimer's patients' ability to perform daily activities and reduce the need for caregiving.*

SOURCE: ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION
 PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH AND MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICA (WWW.PHRMA.ORG)
 *NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE, 2003, 348: 1333-41.

HOW RESEARCH SAVES MONEY:

- The average cost of caring for an Alzheimer's patient is \$5,000 a month. Treatments that delay the onset and progression of Alzheimer's disease by five years could save \$50 billion a year in health care costs.
- A one-month delay in admitting Alzheimer's patients to nursing homes could save \$1 billion a year.

SOURCE: JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN GERIATRICS SOCIETY, 2002, 50:1-7.
 ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

patient & caregiver



NAME: WILLENA RICHARDSON, patient

AGE: 75

DISEASE: ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

NAME: WANDA RICHARDSON, caregiver

AGE: 38

Willena is 75 and was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease 5 years ago. Her daughter and primary caregiver, Wanda Richardson, believes that her mother went undiagnosed for at least 15 years prior to that time.

Willena's family was told by an emergency room doctor that she had Alzheimer's disease after she wandered away one morning and turned up at the neighborhood doughnut shop in her night clothes. She had displayed odd behaviors for many years says Wanda, 38, who now provides full-time care for her mother.

Willena requires 24-hour supervision. The smallest tasks have become tests of endurance for her. Wanda explains, "She does not respond to me anymore. It takes two hours to even get her ready for the day."

Wanda's life has changed as dramatically as her mother's. She only works part-time now and her personal life is on hold. Mostly, she worries about her young son and how he is affected by her severely restricted life.

Wanda realizes that her mother will not get better and may live this way for years. "There needs to be more research done. We need a cure. I might be next," Wanda says.

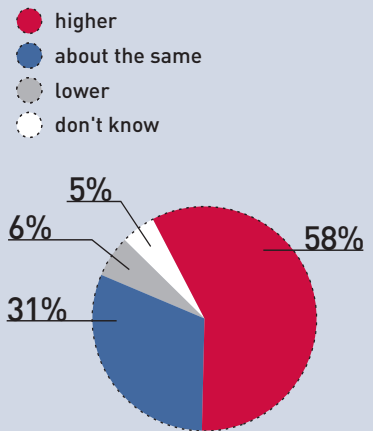
facts about: } Alzheimer's Disease

Hope for the Future:

- ⚡ A researcher who received an NIH Pioneer Award is developing a new test that will help detect Alzheimer's disease earlier. Using nanotechnology, this new method is up to one million times more sensitive than current tests.
- ⚡ The Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative is a partnership between the National Institutes of Health, industry and other research institutions that uses imaging and other tests to observe how normal and Alzheimer's patients' brains change over time. Researchers hope the results will lead to earlier diagnosis and the development of new treatments.

Americans Believe Commitment to Research Should Be Higher

As we look for ways to manage health care costs in our country, do you think that the national commitment to health-related research should be...

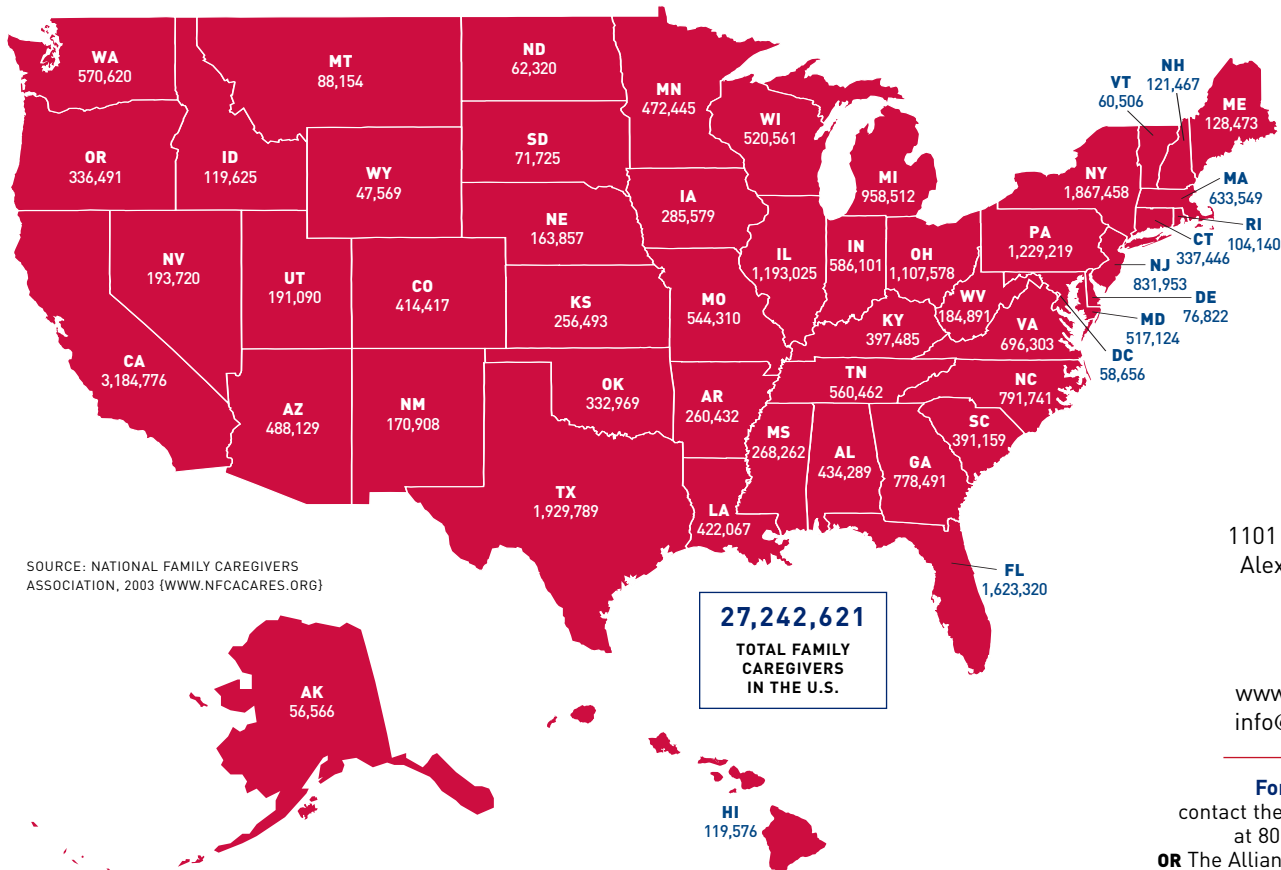


SOURCE: NATIONAL SURVEY, 2005 CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA

The Bottom Line:

Alzheimer's disease is a chronic disease that mostly affects people over 65 who will live from eight to 20 years after diagnosis. As Baby Boomers age, Alzheimer's disease will reach epidemic proportions. Investments in research are needed today to identify ways to prevent and slow the progress of Alzheimer's disease. Research is the only hope for improving the quality of life of millions of older Americans and their caregivers.

Number of Family Caregivers by State



SOURCE: NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS ASSOCIATION, 2003 (WWW.NFCACARES.ORG)

27,242,621
TOTAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS IN THE U.S.

Research!America

1101 King Street, Suite 520
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
703.739.2577
1.800.366.CURE
Fax 703.739.2372
www.researchamerica.org
info@researchamerica.org

For additional information,
contact the Alzheimer's Association
at 800-272-3900; www.alz.org
OR The Alliance for Aging Research at
202-293-2856; www.agingresearch.org.